

Appln No. 10/621,988
Amdt date July 30, 2008
Reply to Office action of April 30, 2008

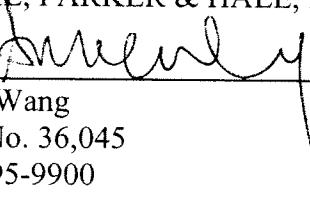
REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Office action dated April 30, 2008, the examiner rejected claims 1-11, 15 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly obvious over Marcus, et al. (5, 295,484) in view of one or more of Panescu, et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0078509) and Webster, Jr. (U.S. Patent No. 5,827,278), Chandrasekaran, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,394,956), and Crowley, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,004,269). However, Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to include the limitations of claims 10, 11 and 16 and to recite a tip electrode comprising an irrigation passage having at least three radially extending irrigation branches and an infusion tube in fluid communication with the radially extending irrigation branches. None of Marcus, Panescu, Webster, Jr., Chandrasekaran and Crowley teach or suggest these features. Accordingly, independent claim 1, and all claims dependent therefrom, including claims 2-9 and 15, are patentable over the cited references. In addition, new claims 46-48, which also depend from independent claim 1, and which correspond to original claims 12-14 (previously canceled), are also patentable over the cited references.

Claims 1-9, 15 and 46-48 now remain pending in this application, with claims 17-45 withdrawn from consideration. By this amendment, Applicant has amended claim 1, added new claims 46-48, and canceled claims 10, 11 and 16. The amendments and new claims find full support in the original specification, claims and drawings, and no new matter is presented. In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that all of pending claims 1-9, 15 and 46-48 are in condition for allowance. Applicant therefore respectfully requests a timely indication of allowance. However, if there are any remaining issues that can be addressed by telephone, Applicant invites the Examiner to contact Applicant's counsel at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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